

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MARR

SUBJECT: MIGUEL ACOCA ARTICLE ON SPANISH BASE TALKS

IN WASHINGTON POST FEBRUARY 24.

1. ACOCA ARTICLE ALREADY CABLED VIA USINFO FEBRUARY
24. EMBASSY SHOULD CONSULT WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A). IN ACCORD WITH PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN
THE NEGOTIATORS TO COORDINATE PRESS POSTURE AND TO
PRESERVE CONFIDENTIALITY OF TALKS, WE WISH TO REVIEW
WITH GOS OUR RESPECTIVE RESPONSES TO PRESS INQUIRIES
THAT MAY FLOW FROM ACOCA ARTICLE.

B). WE HAVE PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED
ON "IF ASKED" BASIS (PARA 3 BELOW).

C). HOW DOES GOS PLAN TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS
SUCH AS THOSE WE ANTICIPATED IN OUR PRESS GUIDANCE?

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D). WE NOTE ACOCA ATTRIBUTED HIS INFORMATION TO

A SPANISH SOURCE. DOES FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS? -

2. CABLE SPANISH RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANY EMBASSY COMMENT WELCOME.

FYI. GUIDANCE WAS AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 24, BUT NOT RPT NOT USED BECAUSE PRESS FOCUSSED ON ARMS AID TO

PAKISTAN, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE AT BRIEFING OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON. END FYI.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD GIVE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOLLOWING TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE:

QUOTE: QUESTION: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SPANISH DEMAND THAT THE US LEAVE THE AIR BASES AT TORREJON AND PERHAPS MORON, AS REPORTED IN THIS MORNING'S (FEB. 24) WASHINGTON POST BY M. ACOCA?

ANSWER: OUR STANDING POLICY IS NOT TO COMMENT ON THE DETAILS OR ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, I CAN SAY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE HAVE DEALT ONLY WITH THE OVERALL US-SPANISH DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AND THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF SPECIFIC FACILITIES HAS NOT YET ARISEN. LET ME REFER TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE LATEST NEGOTIATING ROUND ON FEBRUARY 12.

QUOTE: THE CONVERSATIONS DEALT WITH A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC SITUATION AND CONSIDERED POSSIBILITIES FOR A NEW AND CLOSER PARTNERSHIP WITH A VIEW TO FULL COOPERATION IN WESTERN DEFENSE. END QUOTE.

QUESTION: THE STORY SAYS THE SPANISH BASES WERE USED FOR AERIAL REFUELING FOR CARGO PLANES IN THE RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL IN 1973. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS ARRANGEMENT?

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ANSWER: THE 1973 RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL HAS PROVOKED MUCH COMMENT AND SPECULATION. I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO COMMENT ON REPORTS SUCH AS THE POST STORY.

QUESTION: HOW MANY PEOPLE DO WE HAVE AT THE SPANISH SPANISH BASES?

ANSWER: THE TOTAL NUMBER OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL
BASED IN SPAIN IS ABOUT 9,000. QUESTIONS ON
PERSONNEL STRENGTH AT INDIVIDUAL BASES SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO DOD.

QUESTION: IS PRIME MINISTER ARIAS COMING TO THE US
TO VISIT PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER?

ANSWER: THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR SUCH A VISIT. KISSINGER

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